



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and
Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Members
Senate Environmental Quality Committee Members
Senate Natural Resources Committee Members
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment, Great Lakes,
and Energy Members
House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee Members

FROM: Liesl Eichler Clark, Director 

DATE: February 1, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on Permitting and Licensing

In accordance with Section 1311 of Part 13, Permits, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2021 PA 87, attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on permitting and licensing for fiscal year 2021.

If you need further information, please contact Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, at 517-242-7407; or you may contact me at 517-512-5992.

Attachments

cc/att: Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency
Chris Harkins, Director, State Budget Office
George W. Cook, III, Legislative Affairs Director, Governor's Office
Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office
Ben Dawson, Senate Fiscal Agency
Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency
Jacques McNeely, State Budget Office
Zach Hendrix, State Budget Office
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, EGLE
Travis Boeskool, Legislative Liaison, EGLE
Elizabeth M. Browne, EGLE
Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE
Paul McDonald, EGLE
Mike Neller, EGLE
Eric Oswald, EGLE
Teresa Seidel, EGLE
Adam Wygant, EGLE
Dale Shaw, EGLE



Legislative Report

Permitting and Licensing Report

Report Period:
Fiscal Year 2021

Authority:
MCL 324.1311 and Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2021 PA 87

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the ways the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) achieves its mission of protecting Michigan's environment and public health by managing air, water, land, and energy resources is by assuring permits and licenses are issued in accordance with environmental standards. Permit issuance is one of the department's core functions for projects ranging from homeowner permits for seawall installations to large manufacturing air permits.

EGLE administers 63 different permits and licenses, including 28 authorized under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). Section 1311 of Part 13, Permits, of the NREPA, and Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2021 PA 87, require EGLE to report information on individual permitting and licensing programs annually.

***EGLE approved over
24,000 permits in fiscal
year 2021***

In fiscal year 2021, 25,690 applications were received for EGLE's 63 permit and license categories. Nearly 96 percent of permit actions were approved. Below is a complete summary of fiscal year 2021 actions. Additional details regarding the department's various permits and licenses are attached.

Action Taken	Number of Permit/License Application Actions Taken	Percentage
Approved	24,072	95.6%
Withdrawn	800	3.2%
Denied	308	1.2%
Total	25,180*	100%

*The number of permit applications approved, withdrawn, and denied differ from the number of permit applications received in a fiscal year as some applications are received in one fiscal year and approved, withdrawn, or denied in another fiscal year. Denials of permits occur when the applicant does not meet the regulations or due to lack of information provided to process the application.

Four-Year Comparison of Permit and License Applications Received

The following table captures the change in applications received over the past four years by division:

Division	2018	2019	2020	2021
Air Quality Division	906	906	769	764
Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division	8,653	8,630	8,153	8,464
Materials Management Division	1,581*	9,869	6,210	5,979
Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division	102	100	61	82
Water Resources Division	8,809	10,187	12,001	10,401
Total	20,051	29,692	27,194	25,690

*Data was not available for the Medical Waste Regulatory Program and the Liquid Industrial Waste Transporter Registration. Division numbers vary from year-to-year as licenses are on three- and ten-year cycles.

Percentage of Applications Received by Division in Fiscal Year 2021

EGLE has five divisions that issue permits and/or licenses.

- The Water Resources Division is responsible for keeping Michigan's water resources clean and safe. Over the last year, the division has seen a record number of permit applications due to high-water levels and resulting erosion. Permits are issued to individual homeowners for things like seawall installation and other protective infrastructure. The division is responsible for ensuring homeowners' actions do not negatively impact the environment and/or their neighbors.
- The Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division issues permits for new construction of drinking water systems, as well as administering the state's pools and campground program.
- The Materials Management Division issues permits related to the proper disposal of waste.
- The Air Quality Division and Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division assure industrial practices are done safely and legally and maintain overall environmental quality and protection of public health.

314 staff support permitting efforts across the department.

